

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

RAY JACKSON,

Petitioner,

V.

STEVEN JOHNSON, et al.,

Respondents.

Civ. No. 15-6690 (KM)

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Petitioner is a state prisoner proceeding *pro se* with a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Previously, this Court ordered Respondents to respond to Petitioner's habeas petition. Respondents did so on October 15, 2015. Thereafter, on October 26, 2015, this Court received Petitioner's amended habeas petition. Currently pending before this Court is Petitioner's motion to compel respondents to answer the amended habeas petition. (*See* Dkt. No. 10)

An amended petition for writ of habeas corpus having been filed in the above action, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254, and the Court having screened the amended petition for summary dismissal pursuant to Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts (“Habeas Rules”), concluding that it does not “plainly appear[] from the petition and any attached exhibits that the petitioner is not entitled to relief,” this Court will grant Petitioner’s motion to compel and order the Respondents to file a response to the amended habeas petition.

Accordingly, IT IS this 20th day of March, 2017,

ORDERED that Petitioner's motion to compel Respondents to answer the amended habeas petition (Dkt. No. 10) is granted; and it is further

ORDERED that where the amended petition (Dkt. No. 6) appears to be untimely under the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, within forty-five (45) days of the date this Order is filed, Respondents may file a motion to dismiss the amended petition on timeliness grounds only, provided that the motion: (1) attaches exhibits that evince all relevant state court filing dates; (2) contains legal argument discussing pertinent timeliness law; and (3) demonstrates that an answer to the merits of the amended petition is unnecessary; and it is further

ORDERED that if a motion to dismiss is filed, Petitioner shall have thirty (30) days to file an opposition brief, in which Petitioner may argue any bases for statutory and/or equitable tolling, and to which Petitioner may attach any relevant exhibits; and it is further

ORDERED that if Petitioner files an opposition, Respondents shall have ten (10) days to file a reply brief; and it is further

ORDERED that if the motion to dismiss is subsequently denied, the Court will then direct Respondents to file a full and complete answer to all claims; and it is further

ORDERED that if Respondents do not file a motion to dismiss the amended petition, they shall file a full and complete answer to all claims asserted in the amended petition within forty-five (45) days of the entry of this Order; and it is further

ORDERED that Respondents' answer shall respond to each factual and legal allegation of the amended petition, in accordance with Habeas Rule 5(b); and it is further

ORDERED that Respondents' answer shall address the merits of each claim raised in the amended petition by citing to relevant federal law; and it is further

ORDERED that in addition to addressing the merits of each claim, Respondents shall raise by way of its answer any appropriate defenses which they wish to have the Court consider, including, but not limited to, exhaustion and procedural default, and also including, with respect

to the asserted defenses, relevant legal arguments with citations to appropriate federal legal authority; all non-jurisdictional affirmative defenses subject to waiver not raised in Respondents' answer or at the earliest practicable moment thereafter may be deemed waived; and it is further

ORDERED that Respondents' answer shall adhere to the requirements of Habeas Rule 5(c) and (d) in providing the relevant state court record of proceedings **to the extent that such documents have not already been produced by Respondents**, including any pro se filings; and it is further

ORDERED that Respondents shall electronically file the answer, any additional exhibits, and the list of any additional exhibits; and it is further

ORDERED that all additional exhibits to the answer must be identified by a descriptive name in the electronic filing entry, for example:

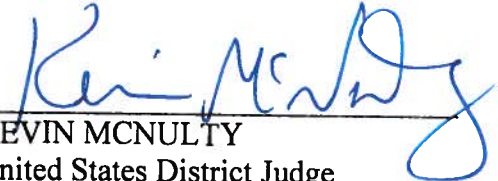
"Exhibit #1 Transcript of [type of proceeding] held on XX/XX/XXXX" or

"Exhibit #2 Opinion entered on XX/XX/XXXX by Judge YYYY"; and it is further

ORDERED that Petitioner may file and serve a reply to the answer within forty-five (45) days after Respondents file the answer, see Habeas Rule 5(e); it is further

ORDERED that, within seven (7) days after any change in Petitioner's custody status, be it release or otherwise, Respondents shall electronically file a written notice of the same with the Clerk of the Court; and it is further

ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall serve a copy of this Order on Petitioner by regular U.S. mail.



KEVIN MCNULTY
United States District Judge